
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Executive Order 8 (2006)

CABINET RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES

IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUE

Veterans of the armed forces of the United States are a bedrock of the Commonwealth and its communities. They have defended freedom at home and abroad. Veterans have borne the battle to protect our way of life. It is incumbent upon state government to offer the highest possible level of services to Virginia's veterans. As home to the Pentagon, numerous major military commands, the world's largest naval base, and a substantial veterans community, the Commonwealth of Virginia has a special obligation to offer high quality services to veterans.

The 2003 General Assembly approved legislation creating a Department of Veterans Services. The legislation has consolidated services for veterans in one agency and improved the delivery of these services. The Commissioner of Veterans Services has a direct reporting relationship to the Governor when needed in crafting policy for serving veterans.

For organizational purposes, the Department of Veterans Services has been under the oversight of the Secretary of Administration. While this arrangement has served the Commonwealth and its veterans well, services could be further improved by co-locating the Department of Veterans Services in the same secretariat with the Department of Military Affairs. This will facilitate greater cooperation between the active duty military, the National Guard and Reserves, and Virginia's services for veterans. This action will also promote greater accountability in state government for services to veterans and their families.

TRANSFER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES TO THE
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Section 2.2-203 of the *Code of Virginia* assigns the Department of Veterans Services to the Secretary of Administration. Section 2.2-203 also permits the Governor, by executive order, to assign any agency listed in this section to another secretary. Accordingly, I hereby transfer responsibility for the Department of Veterans Services from the Secretary of Administration to the Secretary of Public Safety.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE ORDER

This Executive Order shall become effective upon its signing and shall remain in full force and effect unless amended or rescinded by further executive order.

Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia this 18th day of January 2006.

Timothy M. Kaine, Governor

Attest:

Secretary of the Commonwealth